

PROJECT ROCK BLASTING INFORMATION FOR PUBLIC DISSEMINATION
Boca Negra Detention Dam
Albuquerque Metropolitan Arroyo Flood Control Authority Project

The Albuquerque Metropolitan Arroyo Flood Control Authority has contracted with Salls Brothers Construction, Inc. to construct the Boca Negra Detention Dam west of the intersection of Unser Boulevard and Rainbow Boulevard. The construction operations include the drilling and blasting of rock. To minimize the amount of blasting in the area, the AMAFCA Board of Directors authorized the re-design of the dam during construction to minimize the rock removal. The redesign successfully reduced the amount of rock to be removed from 33,500 cubic yards to 5,000 cubic yards. The modification reduced the amount of rock removal, reduces the amount of blasting and reduces the amount of time to remove the rock by 8 weeks.

Salls Brothers Construction, Inc. has contracted with Western Explosives Systems Company (WESCO) to perform the drilling and blasting operation. WESCO is licensed in the use of explosives and has extensive experience blasting in the greater Albuquerque area (including the west escarpment) over the past 25 years. They are highly qualified and are taking all precautionary measures to ensure that the all activities are performed safely and in accordance with state and federal laws.

In addition, Salls Brothers Construction, Inc. has contracted with Aimone-Martin Associates, LLC to perform vibration monitoring for the purpose of verifying that the required safety standards used to protect surrounding structures are being maintained. Aimone-Martin and Associates has over 35-years' of experience as blasting and vibration consultants and will be performing seismograph monitoring during all blasting operations. The seismograph monitors are located adjacent to existing structures closest to the blasting areas to ensure that ground vibrations remain well within the safe blasting criteria. The safe blasting criteria used in the City of Albuquerque, and adopted from recommendations by the U.S. Bureau of Mines, represent industry standards acknowledged throughout the United States. These vibration limits are based on over 60 years' of research proven to protect residential structures from any blast-related damage.

For those residences that live close to the project, it is natural to feel vibrations and hear loose objects "rattle" while occupying a home during rock blasting. However, the amplitude of ground displacements at the home foundations closest to the blasting is far less than the thickness of a piece of writing paper. Structural damage to any home resulting from one of these blasts is not possible according to the U.S. Bureau of Mines Safe Vibration Criteria when the monitoring results fall below the allowable ground vibration amplitudes.

The following information may be useful to those who live near the project:

- The blasting operations are expected to continue through mid 2013.
- Blasting usually occurs 2-3 times per week.
- Blasting usually occurs between 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- A blast can last anywhere from 1 to 3 seconds
- As a precautionary measure, adjacent streets may be momentarily closed depending on the location of the blast. These closures typically can last for 1 to 3 minutes. If the road is temporarily closed, flagmen will be directing the closure.

AMAFCA appreciates your patience and apologizes for any inconvenience you may experience during these operations. Should you have any questions or concerns please contact H.T. Johnson, Project Manager, with Salls Brothers Construction, Inc. at 505-899-4064. Your name, phone number and address will be taken and someone will get back to you either that day or the following day.